

ANSGAR

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH/APRIL 2021

BÆRER HVERANDRES BYRDER

MARTS/APRIL 2021



March marks the anniversary of the pandemic here in Canada. This is for sure nothing to celebrate. However, it gives me a pretext to reflect upon what we may have learned from this extraordinarily difficult situation.

In the Newsletter for March-April last year, just before the pandemic struck our part of the world, I gave some thoughts on the time of Lent - on how we can use this season, that usually runs through March, to focus our thoughts and energy on what is important in life. I admitted that many of us have enough struggles in life and do not need more to abstain from and more troubles to deal with. For many people, life is like a long lent. Restrictions and abstinence are their "way of life". We need to help them with compassion and empathy more than anything else in this world. Those were my thoughts one year ago.

The last 12 months have given these thoughts a turn of the screw. This Lenten "way of life" of restrictions and abstinence has become the lifestyle of most of us. In many ways, we have been plunged into an involuntary Lent for almost a year. No one has been

unaffected by the pandemic in some way or another. But of course, the pandemic has mostly taken a toll on those who have been sick, those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost jobs and income and those who have been lonely and nervous. However, I feel that the awareness of this toll on the weak and needy has awakened our compassion and willingness to make sacrifices to the benefit of all people. Most of us feel for our neighbours, our own lonely family members, our friends, as well as for the many who are hit hard by the pandemic. It's more empathy than I have ever experienced before.

I believe that our ability to be kind and understanding is laid as a God-given seed in our hearts as we are created in his image. But sometimes, as with the seed in the ground, we need the right time and the right circumstances for this divine ability in us to sprout and grow and give fruit to ourselves as to the world. Perhaps, it has been easier for us to understand the sufferings in the world now, when we ourselves know the pain, the restrictions, and abstinences from our own life.

Continued on page 8



If you would like to receive this newsletter in pdf format instead of a printed hardcopy, please forward your email address to:

ansgarnews@gmail.com

and we will add it to our electronic mailing list.

Ansgar Church NEWSLETTER

Six issues per year.
Advertising rates per year:

Business card - \$65
1/4 page - \$100
1/2 page - \$135
3/4 page - \$175
1 page - \$215

This newsletter is available to all!

Download it from our website
www.ansgar.ca,
provide us with your email address, pick up a copy in the church or provide your mailing address and it will be mailed to your home.

Contact Alice Nickel
(780-467-8900)
for more information.
ansgarnews@gmail.com

Deadline for
May/June 2021 News
is **April 10, 2021**

Email submissions to
ansgarnews@gmail.com

From the Church Records:

Baptism:

January 31:
Isabelle Marie Côté
Daughter of Tina and
Shane Côté

Memorial Donations
have been received in memory of

Lis Christensen
Niels Husted
Aage John Fischer
Birthe Knudskov



Birthday Dollars

have been received for
Jackie Lynn Thomas

TILLYKKE!



FUNERALS BAPTISMS VISITATIONS

Due to the current restrictions in social interaction, funerals, baptisms, visitations etc. must be kept to an absolute minimum.

However, don't hesitate to contact the pastor on email or phone regarding any questions or concerns about funerals, baptisms, visitations.

Phone your friends and those you know from Church! They may need it now more than you think.

The Pastor is always available on the phone. Please let him know of anyone in need of pastoral care.

From the Treasurer:

December 2020

Income	\$	17,110.34
Expenses*	(\$	21,482.93)
Deficit	(\$	4,372.59)

January 2021

Income	\$	3,634.11
Expenses	(\$	10,651.04)
Deficit	(\$	7,016.93)

*includes year end adjustments and depreciation

2020 BUDGET

January 1, 2020
- December 31, 2020

This chart indicates how much income we have collected towards our goal of **\$152,000.00** which was approved at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

This works out to \$12,667.00 per month.

As of December 31, 2020 we have collected **\$100,751.10** towards our goal.

\$100,751.10



**Find us on
Facebook**

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch>

if you want to stay in touch!

You can view this page without being on Facebook.



Follow us on Instagram
ansgar_church



A Message from the Board

Greetings everyone. We have passed the worst of the dark days of winter and spring is nearing. We hope you have been "attending" the on-line services through this lock down period during the pandemic and that Pastor Lasse's services have brought you comfort. The Candlemas Service was deeply moving and many of us placed a candle in our own windows that evening. It was a joy to hear the voices of him and his family as they helped celebrate the Light. Plus, the antics of Thaddeus are always charming.

Fastelavn has grown popular with our congregation over the past few years. It was a disappointment that we were not able to hold our celebration after Service this year. We love to see the costumes and enjoy our boller together as we watch the youngsters crack open the barrel and enjoy the sweets. However, we managed to have a virtual celebration viewable on our website. Hosanna in the Highest, Pastor Lasse's "right hand" and Ansgar's beloved donkey friend, was busy helping the children learn the Fastelavn song in the beginning of February so they could all sing together. Pastor Lasse has made numerous videos, especially for the children, on the website that feature Hosanna and teach important Christian lessons.

Thank you for your response in sending in your voting registration. If you haven't yet done so, please sign and mail in yours. The Annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled to be held February 28, 2021 may have to be postponed. The current Government restrictions in place do not allow us to gather in numbers as yet and the Board is considering our options. Our Bylaws say specifically that voting must be done in person and do not allow voting by proxy, yet we must consider safe-distancing and gathering restrictions and the ramifications of postponing the ACM. We are seeing some relaxing of restrictions at time of writing, so we are hopeful. Please check the Ansgar website and Facebook page for up-to-date information.

The Board has made some effort recently to encourage you to join a monthly giving plan. It is the most sensible way for us to budget and has been actively encouraged by many boards over many years. You can set up a transfer from your bank or call Bent, our Treasurer, to arrange an automatic charge to your credit card.

When this church was incorporated in 1930, it was subsidized by the Danish Church Abroad (then DKU, now DSUK). It was reasonable for the Danish immigrants to receive help. We are proud to say Ansgar Church has been fully self-supporting for decades. It would be unreasonable to expect anyone to subsidize us now. We are asking you to look inside your own heart and decide if Ansgar Church is part of your life. Does this Church hold meaning for you? Do you want to celebrate the Christian Holy days here, enjoy the fellowship here, and have this place mean something to your children? It is up to you to support Ansgar Church so it can support you. It requires a financial commitment on your part. You are wanted and welcome and cared for here. We want this Church – this place of belonging, acceptance, and love - to feel like home to you, to your children and to their children. We encourage you to make the commitment to support Ansgar Church now so it will be.

*On behalf of the Board,
Valerie Sørensen*

MENIGHEDSRAADET

The Church Board 2020/2021

Valerie Sørensen
President
780-973-6526

Kirsten Olsen
Vice-President
780-474-4254

Mette Rasmussen
Secretary
780-434-5071

Bent Skousbøl
Treasurer
780-458-7695

Jette Badre
Deacon
780-435-8830

John Sørensen
Deacon
780-984-3958

Gunnar Kjær Jensen
Trustee
780-451-0607

Christopher J. Sørensen
Trustee
780-909-5380

Brian Mogensen
Trustee
587-873-7921

Pastor Lasse Hultberg

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
9554-108A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1C1

780-422-8777

ansgar@telusplanet.net
www.ansgar.ca



Church Owls Playgroup

Play time and music
for the little ones
up to
about 5 years of age
and their parents,
grandparents etc.
in Ansgar Danish
Lutheran Church

**We hope to see
you soon!**

Regular Activities at Ansgar

*Danish Women's Group, Hyggeklubben, Men's Breakfast Club
and the Ansgar Singers have all suspended their regular
activities until further notice.*

*We will keep everyone informed of changes as the pandemic
situation unfolds.*

Birthday Dollars - how does it work?

You can pledge an amount to Birthday Dollars
for your own birthday or on behalf of someone else
you would like to honour on their special day.

All donations to Birthday Dollars are
eligible for a tax receipt.

Operation Friendship

*Ansgar Church continues to support
Operation Friendship at the McCauley
Senior's Drop-In Centre.*

*We sponsor a nutritious meal
once a month.*

*Although we are no longer able to
serve the meal during the pandemic,
your financial support is always welcome.*

*This means you can, in an easy way,
support this outreach program
and still get a tax receipt.*

*A suggested donation could be
\$10.00 per month.*

Thank you for your caring and help!

**Esther Sørensen
at 780-452-3678**

Ansgar Church Sunday Services Online

You can access our Sunday
services at your convenience
during this time of social distancing:

FACEBOOK:

You do not have to be on Facebook
to view this page

<https://www.facebook.com/AnsgarChurch>
and follow the links

OUR WEB PAGE: www.ansgar.ca

Click on the "Videos" tab and view any
of the videos from YouTube

OUR YouTube CHANNEL:

Ansgar Church on youtube.com

EASIEST WAY TO DONATE

*You can donate to our
church on a regular
monthly basis by simply con-
tacting the treasurer. Bent
will set you up to
have a charge put on
your credit card.*

*Remember that we get
no financial support from any
government.*

*We rely completely upon our
members.*

*We appreciate your
support during these
trying times.*

**Contact Bent Skousbol
at 780-458-7695**

KURIAKOS at Sylvan Lake

The Ansgar Family Camp for everybody...

Save these dates for this year's Church Camp:

July 2 – 4, 2021



Serenity Funeral Service

Your Not-for-Profit community owned funeral and cremation provider.

Ansgar members benefit from our association with additional discounts on services and merchandise.

www.serenity.ca



Sandra Jensen
Senior Travel Consultant

Come and visit me at our exciting new location!

The Great Canadian Travel Group Inc.

11739-94 Street, Edmonton,
Alberta, T5G 1J1
780-477-5120
sandra@gctravel.ca

HANDHELD HEARTS

Jilliane Edwardsen (12) who was baptized at Ansgar, has a brilliant idea for how we can feel more connected in these times of isolation. She calls it **HandHeld Hearts!** Jillian has produced and packaged small hearts that come in sets of two with the poem:

*"Always together, Never apart,
Maybe in Distance, But never in heart."* You keep one heart for yourself and give one to a friend or a loved one, just like a friendship bracelet.

Jillian sells them to the benefit of the Little Warriors Foundation that plays an important role in protecting children who are vulnerable to abuse.

If you are interested in buying a set of HandHeld Hearts, send an email to ansgar@telus.net, and the pastor will connect you.




COME FIND YOUR HYGGE





THREE VIKINGS
FOOD + DRINK

10713 124 Street Edmonton, AB
780-249-6302 • info@threevikings.ca








follow us here

 @threevikings_


 facebook.ca/threevikings

 @threevikings

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPECIAL THIS MONTH: March 2 Ansgar Board Meeting March 28 Palm Sunday Service	1	2 <i>7:00 pm</i> Ansgar Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 <i>10:30 am</i> DANSK 3.søndag i fasten Lukas 11, 14-28	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>10:30 am</i> ENGLISH Laetare Sunday John 6, 1-15	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>10:30 am</i> ENGLISH The Annunciation Luke 1, 26-38	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Matthew 21, 1-9 	29 	30 	31 			

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPECIAL THIS MONTH: April 1 Evening Service for Maundy Thursday/Skærtorsdag April 2 Good Friday Service April 4 Easter Sunday Service			1 7:00 pm DANSK/ENGLISH SKÆRTORS DAG/ MAUNDY THURSDAY Short Devotion with Communion Kort nadverandagt Mattheus 26, 17-30		2 2:30 pm ENGLISH GOOD FRIDAY Mark 15, 20-39	3
4 10:30 am ENGLISH EASTER SUNDAY Mark 16, 1-8 	5	6 7:00 pm Ansgar Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 am DANSK 1.søndag efter påske Johannes 20, 19-31	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 am ENGLISH 2nd Sunday after Easter John 10, 11-16	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 am ENGLISH 3rd Sunday after Easter John 16, 16-22 	26	27	28	29	30	

In the fall of 2023
Ansgar Church will be celebrating the

100th Anniversary

of our congregations' first service,
which was held before the church
was officially incorporated.

The Board is asking our members for
suggestions of how we could
celebrate and mark this milestone
in the history of our church.

Please give your suggestions
to any member of the board
or send an email to
ansgar@telus.net

Almond Rings
Smørkage
Kransekage



Dark Fruit Cake

Dark Rye Bread
Tarteletter
Marzipan Logs

NOW UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Box 585, 4906 - 50th Avenue,
Calmar, Alberta T0C 0V0
Telephone: (780) 985-3583

For Danes and Canadians in Edmonton
The Danish Canadian Society



Dances - Camp outs - Children's Events - Newsletter

President Lis Walker
780.433.9932
daniaedmonton@gmail.com or
daniapresident@gmail.com

Continued from page 1

The last 12 months have been trying for us all. We have all had something that we must have abstained from. We have all felt on our body, mind, and soul that we cannot always do whatever we want. And we have in this way all seen very clearly that we, as human beings, are not the masters of this world. We are dependent on greater forces of nature, diseases, as well as on the regulations of society. This has been more obvious than ever before in the life of most of us the past 12 months. We have all lived in a kind of Lent, in a time of waiting and abstaining from many of those things we take for granted.

I can feel and see around myself that these last 12 months of involuntary Lent has changed our hearts. The hard times have tilled the soil in our hearts, and I am hopeful that we, through the many trials and restrictions we have all gone through the last year, will be better at compassion and empathy and understanding of God's entire creation. No, I am more than hopeful! I am certain that we through all the difficulties we have been faced with, will bring more people to the hope of Easter morning, the hope of new life, of new beginnings as well as to a new and stronger sense of solidarity and fellowship between all children of God.

We will surely see in the times that are about to come after the pandemic, that something good came out of these trials. We will certainly mourn those who passed. We will certainly also give help and support to those who have suffered. But we will also most certainly rejoice in gratitude by making this world a better place for all of us.

With this strong hope of release from bondage and solitude into new freedom and fellowship, I wish you all a happy Easter.

Pastor Lasse

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

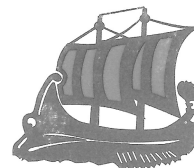
If you only feed your dog or cat once a year, what do you think will happen? Well, of course it will die! Our church finds itself in a similar situation. Many of our members only “feed” it once a year. Our church does not expect to get fed every day, however, once per month will keep the roof over our heads and the bills paid.

Currently we have only 22 of 300 members set up for an automatic charge to their credit cards for which we are extremely grateful. This is very easy to set up. All you have to do is give the treasurer a phone call and he will set you up. Once the transaction is set up, the document is destroyed and no record of your card number is kept. How much you ask does our church want from me? Currently, the members that are set up contribute an average of \$ 117.00 per month. Those donations range from \$10 and up. Our church does not expect any member to contribute more than they can afford. But it does need our members to donate what they can afford. So, here are some guidelines that can help you determine what amount you could contribute to help our church. If your annual income is :

- \$13,800: a yearly donation of \$120 will work out to \$10 per month
- \$27,600: a yearly donation of \$240 will work out to \$20 per month
- \$69,000: a yearly donation of \$600 will work out to \$50 per month
- \$100,000 a yearly donation of \$870.00 will work out to \$72.50 per month
- \$150,000: a yearly donation of \$1,305 will work out to \$108.75 per month

All contributions qualify for an annual tax receipt to reduce your income taxes payable. As you can see from these samples, on a monthly basis the amounts are not huge. If all 300 of us members come on board, we will keep our church in a healthy state. Our goal is to raise a monthly amount of \$13,700 each and every month as this is what it costs to operate our church. We are counting on your support and appreciate any amount you can contribute.

Please hop on board and give our treasurer a call to set you up. (780-458-7695)



VIKING MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS LTD.

- Sheet metal
- Roof top units
- Gas fitting
- Plumbing
- Drain cleaning
- Boiler Installation
- Air Conditioning Repairs & Installations

Phone 780.455.0181

Fax 780.455.0182

Niels Hansen Cell 780.203.1957

17524-105 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1G4

www.vikingmechanical.net



**H & M
Carpet Care®**

780-456-3644



**Fort
Saskatchewan
Carpet Cleaners**

780-998-3829

Carpet Cleaning
Upholstery Cleaning
Tile & Grout Cleaning
Pet Odour Cleaning
Oriental/Area Rug Specialists
Spot & Stain Removal Specialists
Email: hmcaretcare@shaw.ca Web: www.handmcarpetcare.com

Alex
General Manager

Rated as Premium Cleaner in Edmonton - go to www.EthicalServices.com
The Most Thorough Cleaning Ever...OR IT'S FREE

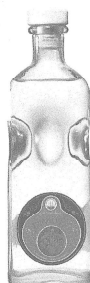
The taste of Bornholm... The taste of a fairy tale



455675

Bornholmer Akvavit 40%

is a clean, clear aquavit, which has an outstanding smooth and well-rounded taste with a discreet hint of caraway and dill, as well as a pleasantly flavourful aftertaste.



667071

Bornholmer Jule 42% (Christmas Akvavit)

is a golden aquavit, which has an outstanding smooth and well-rounded taste of clover and orange. A feast for both the eye and the mouth.



646299

Bornholmer 1855 Traditions Akvavit 42%

is an elegant, smooth and golden aquavit, flavoured with a mild taste of dill and herbs from the traditional recipe of 1855.



23754

Bornholmer Bitter 38%

The exquisite soft and dry flavour derives from a blend of different herbs and fruits; characteristic taste and smell of rowanberry and cinnamon.

For more information contact
Agent Don Thierman #300566-1
780-438-5938

www.bornholmersnaps.dk

E-mail us for any information:
bornholmerakvavit@shaw.ca

The

The Holy week is the peak of the Church Year. A time we all look forward to every year.

Holy week begins on

Palm Sunday

this year March 28,
with the celebration
of the Triumphant
Entry of Jesus
into Jerusalem.



Thursday is the so-called

Maundy Thursday

where we remember the last supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples. This year we will if possible, celebrate this day at a short, bilingual communion service with all the necessary safety precautions in place. It will not be broadcast and not take place if deemed unsafe.

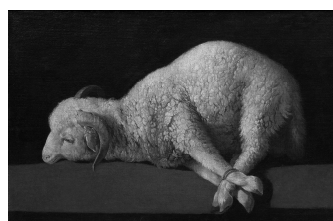
Good Friday

is the holiest day of the year.

We mourn over the world that crucified Christ. There will be no candles or flowers or any decoration on the Altar,

and no communion.

This is the most quiet day of the year.



Holy Week

Easter Morning

this year April 4, we will rejoice that God has resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead as a promise to us of eternal life. The most festive service of the year!!



At this moment of writing, we don't know what regulations we will have at the end of March beginning of April. We will keep you informed on our electronic medias. If you don't have access to computer or smart phone or the like, feel free to contact Pastor Lasse or a board member for more information when we approach the Holy Week.

SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
will continuously provide you
with online-services when
government restrictions are in effect.

Stay posted!

K. Hansen Masonry Ltd. (Masonry Contractors since 1960)

11520 – 154 Street

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Phone: (780) 451-0980

FAX: (780) 451-2299

e-mail: info@khansenmasonry.ca

The family of
Herdis Klostergaard

*would like to announce Herdis' passing
in early February.*

*Ove & Herdis were faithful members of the
Ansgar congregation for many, many years.*

Due to the pandemic there will be no service.

Almond Rings
Smørkage
Kransekage



Dark Fruit Cake

Dark Rye Bread
Tarteletter
Marzipan Logs

NOW UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

Box 120, 4906 - 50th Avenue,
Calmar, Alberta T0C 0V0
Telephone: (780) 985-3583

Immigrant Organizations, *part 2*

In the last issue we read about the history of IO's in general, how and why they come into existence and their function. We noted the challenges facing those organizations after several generations and included a bit of information about the Danish community's organizations. This issue is about Ansgar Church and its early history.

The Danes living in and around Edmonton in the 1920's desired to have Danish Lutheran Church Service. There was a Danish Pastor living in Calgary and they arranged to have him travel to Edmonton to do so. In the fall of 1923, the first Danish Lutheran service was held in the Norwegian Lutheran Church; the 100th anniversary of that first Service is approaching and will be honoured here at Ansgar Church. A Calgary pastor came to Edmonton approximately once per month when possible for the next few years. The venture was well-received and in May of 1928 the Danish Church Abroad (DKU) sent Pastor, Max Mathiessen to Edmonton. He rented the German Reformed Church on the corner of 96 St. and 108A Avenue in August of 1928 for \$75 a year.

The Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton was founded on January 30, 1930 when the first and founding Constitution was voted on and accepted by the 42 charter members. The Constitution stated that only a Danish evangelical Lutheran minister, selected by the congregation, and ordained in the Danish State Church could fill the position of Pastor. This Article exists in our Constitution to this day. The first Board meeting was held on March 26, 1930. The Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton was incorporated in the Province of Alberta, Canada on August 8, 1933.

At an extraordinary general meeting held on June 15, 1933, Ansgar Church decided to purchase the building and adjacent lot for \$4000. It was a mammoth undertaking for the tiny congregation living in very uncertain times. The members were given piggybanks to save their offerings. The church was

small and had no basement and on November 16, 1937 a proposal for a new building (in the familiar style of Danish Churches) prepared by Danish architect Holm Møller, was presented. An estimate of \$1167 to raise the building - with an unfinished basement - was presented on January 26, 1938 and the saving to the "Building Fund" continued in earnest. In August 1939, the German church building was sold and moved to a different location, and all able hands commenced to digging the basement and building the new church. The church as we know it was inaugurated on August 25, 1942.

The house on the adjacent lot owned by the Church was rented out whenever possible through this period. It was decided in May 1942 to repair the house and offer it as part of compensation to the pastor to save on wages. Pastor Bentsen agreed and in he and Mrs. Bentsen moved. The house came to be known as "the Parsonage" and is still commonly referred to by that name. The noble wood doors that to this day stand at the entrance of the church was donated by Pastor and Mrs. Bentsen in memory of their son.

The early period of Ansgar Church was difficult to say the least. The Great Depression had upended the world, times were difficult, and families struggled to survive. There were challenges to find the money to pay the mortgage and pay the pastor. World War II made it impossible to keep contact with Denmark and there were debates about whether to join the American Lutheran Synod or stay with DKU. Interestingly, the same questions plagued the early Church Boards that are still top of mind today: how to get people to attend church and how to pay the bills.

It's amazing when one considers the efforts of those Danes. There was a need and they were determined to succeed. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton is the result.